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8. (Amended) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to either claim 2 or claim 6.

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10. (Amended) An antisense polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide that is complementary to a polynucleotide according to any one of claims 26, 7, 11, and 50-52.

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11. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide that detectably hybridizes to the complement of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 under conditions that include a wash in 0.1X SSC and 0.1% SDS at 50 °C for 15 minutes, wherein said isolated polynucleotide exhibits at least 80% nucleotide identity to the polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

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12. (Amended) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to any one of claims 10, 11 and 50-52.

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14. (Amended) A method of producing a dual specificity phosphatase-4 (DSP-4) polypeptide, comprising the steps of:

(a) culturing a host cell according to claim 9 under conditions that permit expression of the DSP-4 polypeptide; and

(b) isolating DSP-4 polypeptide from the host cell culture.

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22. (Amended) A method for detecting dual specificity phosphatase-4 (DSP-4) expression in a sample, comprising:

(a) contacting a sample with an antisense polynucleotide according to claim 10; and

(b) detecting in the sample an amount of DSP-4 polynucleotide that hybridizes to the antisense polynucleotide, and therefrom detecting DSP-4 expression in the sample.

Please add new claims 50-52 to read as follows:

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